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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 10, 1999

TO: File

THRU: Joe Helfrich, Permit Supervisor

THRU: Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor

FROM: Robert Davidson, Soils Reclamation Specialist

RE: Administrative Completeness Review - Wild Horse Ridge, Co-Op Mining, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025-SR98-1, Folder #2, Carbon County, Utah

SYNOPSIS

Co-Op Mining has submitted an amendment to the Bear Canyon Mine's Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) entitled Wild Horse Ridge. Surface disturbance will include construction of the Blind Canyon Seam Pad, conveyor access roads, and extension of the existing portal access road. This document supplies the Administrative Completeness Review for soils, Section R645-301-200.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Directions: The categories listed below correspond to the minimum requirements for information necessary to initiate processing and public review. If a category is checked the Applicant has met the Completeness requirement for that category. If a category is not checked, the Completeness requirements have not been met. The comments column will identify the deficiency and what is necessary to correct it.

		Comments
301-200	Soils —	→Incomplete.
211	Description of Premining Soil Resources —	<p>→An Order-1 soil survey is required to accurately describe the soil resources. The Order-1 soil survey needs to meet the standards of National Cooperative Soil Survey. Soil pit descriptions need to be provided. Who (names, titles, and qualifications) performed the survey, dates, and specifics need to be provided. Pit locations need to be located on a soils map. Soil chemical characterizations need to be legible (not poor copy quality).</p> <p>→Topsoil and subsoil need be saved, separately removed, segregated and stockpiled.</p>
212	Soil Resource Protection measures —	<p>→ Soil protection measures for both topsoil and subsoil need to be evaluated using an Order-1 soil survey.</p> <p>→Topsoil and subsoil will be separately removed, segregated and stockpiled.</p>
221	Prime Farmland Investigation —	→ A Prime Farmland Investigation and determination needs to be provide by the NRCS.

222, 223	Soil Survey and Soil Characterization	—	<p>→The only statement is that the NRCS conducted a survey of the proposed Wild Horse Ridge. Other than the names of four pits and illegible copies of laboratory data, no other specific information for the 1998 survey is provided. The survey cannot be located. Field notes are not provided. Soil pit descriptions cannot be found. Soil pit locations cannot be located on a soils map.</p> <p>→What general soil descriptions existed in the plan for past surveys have been removed and deleted.</p> <p>→ The current survey for Wild Horse Ridge needs to be an Order-1 soil survey that meets the standards of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. Soil pit descriptions, including field notes, need to be provided. Who (names, titles, and qualifications) performed the survey, dates, and specifics need to be provided. Pit locations need to be located on a soils map. Soil chemical characterization needs to be legible (poor copy quality).</p>
224	Substitute Topsoil Info (When Proposed)	—	<p>→Adequate soil salvage for reclaiming the entire proposed Wild Horse Ridge disturbed area needs to be ascertained before a determination can be made that substitute topsoil is not needed.</p>

230	Operation Plan: Topsoil Handling/Removal/Storage —	→ Soil protection measures need to be evaluated using an Order-1 soil survey for salvaging topsoil and subsoil. → Topsoil and subsoil need be saved, separately removed, segregated and stockpiled. → Need a soil salvage map. → The exact location, size, dimension, etc of the topsoil stockpile is needed based on projected soil salvage volumes. Final configuration should be sized and shaped to show that enough room is available for projected soil salvage.
240	Reclamation Plan: Soil Redistribution/Stabilization <u>X</u>	→

302-321	Alluvial Valley Floor Determination —	→ This finding needs to be made by the NRCS or BLM.
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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division is unable to ascertain if soil resource protection measures are adequate or meet regulatory compliance because of inadequate soil resource information. Until the plan is administratively complete, no technical analysis review can be achieved to ascertain if the plan is complete and accurate.